

Sub-Committee on Accreditation and Testing

1. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons to requiring accreditation was conducted:
 - a. Pros
 - i. Standards are established
 - ii. Paperwork is clean
 - iii. Initial accreditation is extremely beneficial
 - b. Challenges
 - i. Difficulty of getting site visits schedules, especially since the requirement of the NREMT that all paramedics testing at the NREMT are graduated from an accredited institution.
 - ii. Cost
 - iii. CoAEMSP, NREMT, NEMSIS, able to set state's policies
 - iv. Length of time to get accredited
 1. 500 man hours to prepare for site visit was reported by one TI
 2. Decrease in number of paramedics
 3. No evidence that accredited TIs produce better paramedics
 - a. Some students who take up to five times to pass the NREMT exam are high performers in the field while many of those who pass on the first time are low performers.
 4. TIs are torn between teaching to the test and teaching to provide good care.
 - c. Inconsistencies between site visits
2. Questions posed during the meeting:
 - a. Some states such as Florida have their own exam and allow students to choose between taking the state exam and the NREMT. Is this an option in Indiana?
 - b. Does the current system produce the desired results in terms of quality and quantity of TI and paramedics?
 - c. Why do we need CoAEMSP?
 - i. Can the state do its own accreditation?
 - ii. Can another accreditation body be used besides CoAEMSP?
 - iii. Is accreditation and NREMT testing worth losing state's policy-making autonomy?
3. Action Items
 - a. Generate a letter to all TIs asking those TIs that are accredited to list pros/cons and opinions of accreditation.
 - b. Invite TI officials to attend next meeting of the sub-committee to discuss these issues and develop recommendations to the Commission.
 - c. Encourage participants to bring data concerning costs, pass/fail rates, etc. to the meeting.
 - d. Encourage non-accredited TI officials to attend to discuss barriers to accreditation in their areas.